

SEARLE GOAL SINKS WOKING — NOW FOR CHATHAM

WOKING goalkeeper Dave Collyer was "chaired off" by admiring Wycombe Wanderers fans on Saturday as the Blues eased into the third qualifying round of the F.A. Cup and a visit to Kent League side Chatham.

Collyer, who reserves his very best performances for Loakes Park, was once again in fine form and he alone prevented a far heavier defeat. A one goal victory indicates a close game but nothing is further from the truth.

Unlike last Tuesday when Wanderers pipped their Surrey rivals 3-2 in a league game, Saturday's encounter was one way traffic and the result never once looked in doubt. There weren't any anxious moments in the closing stages as the game slowly petered out.

The second half was eminently disappointing as Wycombe's attacks broke down all too regularly. Woking, however, couldn't use this to their advantage and home 'keeper John Maskell had one of his quietest matches of the season.

Wanderers made two changes from Tuesday's match, Dylan Evans replacing young Tony Price upfront, centre half Dave Bullock coming in for Ian Rundell.

By Stuart Earp

Bullock made a big difference to the defence and his presence gave Phil Wood far greater confidence. As a result Woking's spearhead of Ken Oram and Jim Grondona was held in check throughout the match.

Both sides exchanged corners before the Blues took the lead in the 14th minute. A chip by Mick Holifield was picked up by Evans inside the area, and although trying a shot, the inside forward produced a telling pass across the six yard box. Keith Searle was at the far post and side-footed past the helpless Collyer.

Excellent positioning by John Maskell alone prevented a Woking equaliser four minutes later when Oram outjumped Wood and set Tony Roberts away. The

former Hayes man shrugged off Roger Grant's challenge and fired in a shot but Maskell, at least eight yards off his line, was in exactly the right place to save.

A rare error from the Woking 'keeper almost let in Evans after 21 minutes. A surprise shot from Searle after a scramble inside the Woking box, caught Collyer off guard and he could only parry the ball. Evans closed in to finish off the move but Andy Christmas whipped the ball away in the nick of time.

At this stage, Wycombe were well in command and had the visitor's defence severely stretched. One tackle by Derek Edwards on Perrin belonged more in a wrestling ring than on a football pitch.

Larry Pritchard brought a

good save from Collyer after half an hour when Perrin beat two defenders and cut inside before sending over a perfect pass and a minute later Perrin drove wide after being put through by Searle's flick-on.

A couple of fast raids from Woking just before the break kept Wycombe on their toes when Grondona placed a header inches wide and then Roberts caught the defence square and brought a diving save from Maskell.

Heavy rain midway through the first half meant conditions gradually deteriorated in the second period and the football suffered the same fate. Nevertheless chances were created early on and one of them, only two minutes into the

new half, should have brought a second goal.

Pritchard, who along with Williams and Holifield, completely dominated midfield, sent Perrin through and his clever back-heel gave Searle a clear run towards the net. Keith had time to look up and measure his shot but Collyer spread himself well and the effort struck his legs.

Woking struggled again in this half, wasting all their possession with a string of inaccurate passes. Scoring opportunities were few and far between, although Maskell was forced to save well from Graham Cooper's cross after Derek Gamblin had been beaten for speed on the flank.

Rob Williams burst onto the

scene after 61 minutes when his vicious half-volley caught Edwards full in the stomach. Such was the power of the shot that the centre half was laid out for a couple of minutes before he resumed.

After that however, the game became bogged down with errors. Wycombe lost all sense of urgency and their build-ups, usually so precise, began to fall away. It was as well Woking were in a similar mood.

Even in the closing stages they left only Oram and Grondona upfront and the support from midfield was virtually nil. Time and again, the midfield men were 20-30 yards behind play giving Bullock and Co. plenty of time to sweep up the loose stuff.

Brian Finn saved Woking in

the 73rd minute when he headed Pritchard's shot off the line following one of several second half corners. The centre back was fortunate a few minutes later, however, when he was lucky to escape a booking after a vicious hack on Perrin.

Substitute Graham Carter replaced Vic Reynolds in the 78th minute and he too was almost booked with his first touch of the ball — or rather the player. Roger Grant was sent flying and referee Godfrey gave the offender a strong lecture.

Tony Horseman, who tops the goalscoring charts in the Rothman's Isthmian League this season with eight, replaced Steve Perrin ten minutes from the close and had only one real chance to shine when put through by Searle. Collyer, however, saved at the striker's feet.

It capped a fine display by the visitor's 'keeper who was carried off by the chanting Wycombe fans. In the days of crowd violence when goalkeepers suffered more than most, it was a refreshing gesture.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell; D. Gamblin, P. Wood, D. Bullock, R. Grant; R. Williams, L. Pritchard, M. Holifield; D. Evans, K. Searle, S. Perrin (sub: A. Horseman); T. Horseman.

WOKING: D. Collyer; A. Christmas, R. Underwood, B. Finn, D. Edwards, G. Cooper, G. Chapple, V. Reynolds, (sub: G. Carter 78 mins.), K. Oram, J. Grondona; A. Roberts.

Referee: J. W. Godfrey (Watford).
Half time: 1-0. **Goalscorer:** Wycombe — Searle (14).
Attendance: (all pay) 2,133.